SHILDON AND EAST THICKLEY

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have again the honour to submit my ANNUAL REPORT :—on this occasion for the year 1894.

VITAL STATISTICS.

DEATHS.—During the year 145 deaths (66 males and 79 females) were registered for the district : which, with an estimated population at midyear of 9890, yields a death-rate of 14·6 per 1000, against 25·8 for the previous year.

The deaths from the seven principal Zymotic diseases amounted to 7, which gives the very satisfactory rate of 0·7 per 1000 of population against 8·3 for 1893.

The deaths of children under 1 year of age reached a total of 49, equal to a rate of 143 per 1000 born.

Rheumatic Fever caused 5 deaths ; Phthisis, 10 ; Bronchitis Pneumonia and Pleurisy, 23 ; Heart Diseases, 12 ; Injuries, 9 ; Zymotic Diseases, 7 ; the remaining 79, being ascribed to various other causes.

BIRTHS.—For the whole year 342 births (175 males and 167 females) were registered, yielding a rate 34·5 per thousand of population against 36·2 for the previous year.

From these figures you will at once perceive that the death-rate is decidedly low—that it is little more than half that of the previous year, and I may add that it will not only compare favourably with places similarily situated in the County, but also with the general death-rate of the whole of England and Wales.

The Tables which follow form an interesting record of facts which I venture to think will repay you for careful attention and study.

[1.]

MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT AGES SPECIFIED FOR YEAR ENDED DEC. 31ST, 1884.						
Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and under 80.	80 and under 90.
49	16	13	11	42	9	5

[2.]

THE TOTAL DEATHS FOR 5 YEARS IN EACH SUB-DIVISION OF THE DISTRICT, WITH ESTIMATED POPULATION OF EACH AT MIDDLE OF 1894.						
		DEATHS IN				
	Estimated Population, 1894.	1894.	1893.	1892.	1891.	1890.
Old Shildon	3212	48	85	57	83	50
Chapel Row	2664	41	50	42	66	57
NewShildon	2250	34	72	40	49	34
E. Thickley	1764	22	46	23	29	36
Totals ..	9890	145	253	162	227	177

[3.]

The Zymotic Mortality in each Sub District for 1894.				
	Old Shildon	Chapel Row	New Shildon	E. Thickley
Small Pox		.	...	..
Scarlatina	...	..	...	...
Diphtheria .	..		.	
Fever (Enteric, &c.)	1		3	...
Measles ...	...	.	..	...
Whooping Cough ...	1	...	.	...
Diarrhœa . ..	. .	2	..	. .
Totals ...	2	2	3	0

[4.]

Population Births and Deaths for 15 Years.					
Population.	Year.	Births.	Deaths under 1 yr.	From Zymotic Diseases.	At all Ages.
Estimated, 9890 .	1894	342	49	7	145
,, 9795 ...	1893	355	85	82	253
,, 9702 ...	1892	371	51	10	162
Census 9584 ...	1891	412	70	27	227
	1890	326	56	27	177
	1889	359	71	36	193
	1888	337	44	6	160
	1887	367	60	15	167
	1886	335	41	20	151
	1885	356	53	17	175
	1884	378	59	23	169
	1883	368	58	27	182
	1882	369	61	57	200
Census ... 8703 ..	1881	381	47	56	170
	1880	316	?	52	195

[5.]

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified in			
	1894.	1893.	1892.
Small Pox	...	...	.
Scarlatina . .	47	63	56
Diphtheria	10	16	6
Croup	1	3	1
Enteric Fever	46	196	6
Puerperal Fever	...	2	2
Erysipelas	13	25	16
Totals	117	305	87

The following details with respect to Infectious Diseases are of practical importance.

1. SMALL POX.—No case reported.

2. MEASLES.—Although this disease was very prevalent and attended with considerable fatality in some parts of the County it was never once reported present in this District.

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3. SCARLATINA.—47 cases were notified, all of which ended in recovery—they were pretty equally distributed over the District, and every month one or more cases were reported. For the most part the disease was of mild type.

It was never absent during the whole of 1892 and 1893, but only 2 deaths were ascribed to this cause in the former year and none in the latter.

4. DIPHTHERIA.—10 cases notified. No death. Several of these were of severe type and were followed by Paralysis.

5. CROUP.—1 Fatal Case notified.

6. WHOOPING COUGH.—This disease is not notified here—a considerable number of cases were met with, but only 1 fatal case is recorded.

7. ENTERIC FEVER.—The number of cases notified was only about one fourth of that of the previous year, viz.: 46, as compared with 196, (which did not by any means represent the total number) in 1893.

No less than 10 of these cases were met with in Mechanic Street, New Shildon—where the Drainage was connected with the old water Course—but in every part of the District the disease obtained a foothold.

In close proximity to an old stone drain in Wharton Street, Old Shildon—which became blocked—several bad cases occurred. It was difficult to trace out the probable cause in every case, but I am persuaded that the disease was frequently propagated by imperfectly disinfected excreta being thrown into privies and open ashpits.

Since we obtained the Galvanized Airtight Pails for these cases, much good has resulted from their use, and I consider them of the greatest value, and well calculated to assist very materially in stamping out a Typhoid Focus in Districts such as this.

8. DIARRHŒA.—Was much less prevalent than usual and only 2 deaths are ascribed to this cause. In 1893 the disease was epidemic and caused 16 deaths. The excessive heat and protracted drought followed by severe thunderstorms had much to do with its causation.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT AND RESULTS.

Accompanied by your late Surveyor Mr. Mason and alone, I have made systematic inspections of the District, and on several occasions since Mr. Hopwood's appointment I have visited and consulted with him on the Sanitary condition of parts thereof.

I have also had the benefit of a visit and conference with Dr. Eustace Hill, the Medical Officer of Health of the County.

Since my last Annual Report I may also mention that Dr. R. Bruce Low's very elaborate and exhaustive Report on the serious outbreak of Enteric Fever in 1893 has been received; and I may be pardoned for saying, that it was a matter of some satisfaction to me to find that his views as to its causation and prevalence as well as with regard to the means recommended by way of remedy, were so closely in accord with those I had expressed to your Board.

Much good work has been done during the year—as the following Summary shows—the insanitary conditions discovered having been abated in all except one case in which it was found necessary to obtain a Magistrate's Order to put 2 cottages in Strand Street, into such a condition as to render them fit for human habitation. Measures of conciliation had previously been tried in vain.

SUMMARY OF NEW AND OTHER WORK INSPECTED, &c.

New Houses built and occupied...	28
New School and Mission Room ..	1
Streets made ...	6
Sewers relaid ...	5
Ventilating Pipes fixed	5
Water Closets put in	24
New House drains laid	63
Drains relaid ...	16
,, opened out ...	27
Smoke Test applied in	23
Houses respouted ...	16
Ashpits cemented, &c.	22
New Gullies put in ...	54
Informal Notices given	98

And in addition to these various other matters were attended to—such as visiting and advising in infected houses—disinfecting, &c., &c.

DAIRIES AND COW SHEDS.

The Regulations with regard to these are still in abeyance—we have the matter in hand and trust to have it, in the course of a short time, satisfactorily dealt with.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These when visited have been found in a cleanly and fairly satisfactory state.

No case of unsound or unwholesome meat has come under notice.

WATER SUPPLY.

This continues to be in every way satisfactory.

SCAVENGING.

This has been better done, though now and again complaints have been made. Arrangements should be made for doing this work before sunrise in Summer and Autumn, as previously recommended.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. A Steam Disinfector is much needed.

2. Infectious Disease Hospital.

These, as I have previously recommended, should I think be erected by the County Council in suitable centres over the County and should, to be of any real use, be of sufficient size and properly equipped for the isolation of at least two distinct diseases. They should be maintained in a state of constant efficiency and always be in readiness to receive patients.

With a proper Ambulance and Trained Nurse to superintend, there would be no difficulty in removing patients 8 or 10 miles.

Though not quite in the line of a Medical Officer of Health, I would advise, for the public good, that some means should be adopted for dealing with accidental fires.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. FIELDEN, M.D.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

I append Statistical Tables required by Local Government Board.